

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS PARIS 002316

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR INR/R/MR; IIP/RW; IIP/RNY; BBG/VOA; IIP/WEU; AF/PA;  
EUR/WE /P/SP; D/C (MCCOO); EUR/PA; INR/P; INR/EUC; PM; OSC ISA  
FOR ILN; NEA; WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC/WEUROPE; DOC FOR ITA/EUR/FR  
AND PASS USTR/PA; USINCEUR FOR PAO; NATO/PA; MOSCOW/PA;  
ROME/PA; BRUSSELS/PA; USVIENNA FOR USDEL OSCE.

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [FR](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - CHINA ARMS EMBARGO  
PARIS - THURSDAY, APRIL 07, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

CHINA ARMS EMBARGO

B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

SEVERAL FRONT PAGES DEVOTE THEIR LEAD TO THE DEATH OF MONACO'S PRINCE RAINIER, ALONGSIDE WIDESPREAD COVERAGE OF MOURNERS FLOCKING TO ROME TO VIEW THE POPE LYING IN STATE.. MOST OUTLETS CARRY PICTURES OF PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH AND THE U.S. DELEGATION AT THE VATICAN.

A MAJOR STORY FRONT-PAGED IN THE ECONOMIC PRESS - LES ECHOS, LA TRIBUNE - BUT ALSO IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO, IS THE CONTROVERSY BETWEEN EUROPE AND CHINA OVER TEXTILE IMPORTS. EDITORIALS AND COMMENTARIES NOTE THAT THE PROTOCOL FOR CHINA'S MEMBERSHIP TO THE WTO CONTAINS SAFEGUARDS AGAINST "A DISARRAY OF THE MARKET" IN THE TEXTILE SECTOR, WITH CHINA HAVING TO CONTAIN ITS YEARLY EXPORTS TO 7.5 PERCENT. JEAN-MARC VITTORI WRITES IN LES ECHOS: "WASHINGTON IS THINKING ABOUT INVOKING THIS SAFEGUARD; BRUSSELS COULD DO THE SAME, AND BEIJING IS CONCERNED THAT THEY WILL. THE ONLY EFFECTIVE RESPONSE WOULD BE A RESPONSE COMING FROM EUROPE. BUT EVERYONE KNEW THIS WAS COMING, POLITICIANS AS WELL AS BUSINESS LEADERS. AFTER ALL, THE DECISION TO LIFT THE TEXTILE BARRIERS WAS MADE ELEVEN YEARS AGO."

CHINA AND THE ARMS EMBARGO ELICIT AN EDITORIAL COMMENTARY IN CATHOLIC LA CROIX, WHERE JEAN-CHRISTOPHE PLOQUIN CONTENTS THAT THIS MAY BECOME THE NEXT BONE OF CONTENTION BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE U.S., BUT MAY ALSO DIVIDE EUROPE, LIKE THE WAR IN IRAQ. (SEE PART C)

LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION DEVOTES AN EDITORIAL TO THE BOLKENSTEIN DIRECTIVE AND TO THE EU CONSTITUTION REFERENDUM. FOR JEAN-MICHEL THENARD, "EUROPE IS DYING FOR LACK OF DEBATE. THE FRENCH ARE GETTING BACK (AT THEIR GOVERNMENT) BECAUSE OF TOO MANY DEBATES THAT NEVER TOOK PLACE, SUCH AS THE ONE ON THE EU ENLARGEMENT. HAVING BEEN DEPRIVED OF THAT DEBATE, FRENCH CITIZENS ARE TAKING THEIR REVENGE BY INCLUDING IN THIS ONE ISSUES THAT HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE CONSTITUTION, SUCH AS COMMERCIAL DUMPING FROM EASTERN EUROPE AND RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL DUMPING FROM TURKEY."

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

CHINA ARMS EMBARGO

"CUMBERSOME CHINA"

JEAN-CHRISTOPHE PLOQUIN IN CATHOLIC LA CROIX (04/07): "LIFTING THE CHINA ARMS EMBARGO WAS TO BE THE SYMBOL OF AN AUTONOMOUS EUROPE VIS-A-VIS THE U.S. ON THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA. THE ISSUE IS TURNING INTO A MAJOR CACOPHONY AND THE RISK IS GROWING OF SEEING THE EU DIVIDED, AS WAS THE CASE DURING THE SADDEST DAYS OF THE WAR IN IRAQ. EUROPE'S LIFTING OF THE CHINA ARMS EMBARGO COULD BECOME THE NEW TRANSATLANTIC BONE OF CONTENTION. THE U.S. DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE EXPLICIT WHEN HE WARNED ABOUT POSSIBLE SANCTIONS AGAINST EUROPEAN COMPANIES IN THE U.S. DEFENSE MARKET. FOR EUROPE'S MOST PRAGMATIC BUSINESSMEN IT IS NOT CERTAIN THAT A POLITICAL RAPPROCHEMENT WITH CHINA IS WORTH THE RISK. FRANCE'S DIPLOMACY IS PARTICULARLY ANNOYED ABOUT THIS EMERGING NEW IMBROGLIO. AFTER HAVING BEEN ABLE TO CONVINCE PRESIDENT BUSH, BACK IN FEBRUARY, THAT LIFTING THE EMBARGO WAS INNOCUOUS, PRESIDENT CHIRAC IS NOW FACING A NEW AND GROWING COALITION OF OPPONENTS, MADE UP OF GREAT BRITAIN, SWEDEN, BELGIUM AND ITALY. FOR EUROPE, THE CHOICE LIES BETWEEN IRRITATING WASHINGTON AND VEXING BEIJING. AND ETHICS DO NOT PLEAD IN FAVOR OF CHINA." LEACH